

5 protect device.

1        25. The computer readable medium comprising instructions as  
2        recited in claim 22, wherein the generating step (d) comprises the step  
3        of:

- 4              i) placing each of said I/O cells based on said propagated  
5        wire width and maximum resistance constraints; and  
6              ii) routing a connection between each said placed I/O cell  
7        and its said associated pad, each said routed connection meeting said  
8        propagated wire width and maximum resistance constraints.

1        26. The computer readable medium comprising instructions as  
2        recited in claim 25, wherein the checking step (e) comprises checking  
3        connections made in said generating step (d) against propagated wire  
4        width and maximum resistance constraints.--

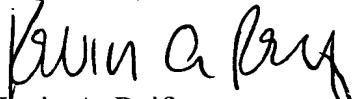
#### REMARKS

Claims 1-6 have been canceled. Claims 7-26 are presented for examination on the merits. Claims 21-26 are *Beauregard*-type claims (*In re Beauregard*, 35 USPQ2d 1383, CAFC, 1995) and have been newly added to further define the scope of Applicant's invention. In particular, these claims substantially parrot claims 7-12 except that the preamble has been modified to recite that the claimed method can be tangibly stored in machine readable form for execution by a computer. Examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

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Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 09-0456.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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